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# HINTS

ON

## *Common Politeness.*

Politeness and integrity constitute the real Gentleman  
and the true Christian.

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D. C. COLESWORTHY,

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## INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

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WE have fallen on singular times. Who has any true regard for the rights of his neighbor? Where can a really polite man be found? If we do not actually spit in the faces of our friends, we are, every day of our lives, guilty of numberless thoughtless and equally as uncivil acts, that greatly displease and annoy them.

When will the American people learn that true politeness does not consist in honeyed words, graceful bows, and starched rules of etiquette? When will they cease to

use low, vulgar, and profane language? When will they learn not to crowd their neighbors, and trample upon their sacred rights? When will they respect the aged, assist the infirm, and manifest a tender regard for the feelings of the poor and down-trodden? And when will they stop puffing the fumes of tobacco in your very faces, and cease squirting its disgusting juices promiscuously upon your stairs, carpets, and dresses? God made the atmosphere pure and healthy; and what right has man to poison the air we breathe, annoy a fellow-traveller, and destroy the pleasure he would enjoy from a car-ride in the city or country?

Your own pleasure, convenience, and interest should not be taken into consideration, when they conflict with the duties you owe to your neighbors and to society at large. It is a man's glorious privilege, as well as his highest Christian duty, to sacrifice his own selfish interests, if thereby he can promote the weal of others, and scatter widely and profusely the blessings of life.

A few hints in this little volume, we trust, will have the effect to make people more jealous of the rights of others ; to lead them to study to cultivate more carefully and religiously that disposition, and to practise those virtues, which will contribute to the wel-

fare and happiness of mankind, and scatter more bountifully the sunshine and warmth that spring from elevated affections, Christian deportment, and sincere politeness.



## COMMON POLITENESS.

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It is not polite to wait until services have commenced before you enter a church or any public assembly.

It is not polite for ladies or gentlemen to occupy as much space as possible in pews, cars, or omnibuses, while others are standing.

It is not polite to speak unkindly or look angrily, when requested to make room for another in a public conveyance.

It is not polite to laugh aloud, or use loud or boisterous language, in cars or

on ferry-boats ; thereby exciting attention.

It is not polite to use harsh language when speaking to another of his fault, however aggravating you may think it to be.

It is not polite to make boastful remarks, or manifest a defiant spirit. Modesty and humility are Christian virtues.

It is not polite to seek opportunities of revenge. To forgive and to forget is the true doctrine.

It is not polite to fret and scold at the petty annoyances of life.

It is not polite to get unnecessarily excited and angry, however great the provocation may be.

It is not polite to pass a relative or

an acquaintance without recognizing him.

It is not polite to refuse to accommodate another, when it is in your power, and you can do it without detriment to yourself, and without infringing on the rights of others.

It is not polite to request of another a favor you would not willingly grant under similar circumstances.

It is not polite to invite persons to your house, when you do not desire to see them.

It is not polite to chew tobacco in the presence of those to whom your breath may be offensive, — whether in a dwelling-house, a stage-coach, a car, or a steamboat.

It is not polite to say through

another, to a stranger or acquaintance at the door, whom you do not wish to see, that you are engaged, or not at home.

It is not polite to contradict another, or rudely to question the truth of his remarks. You should speak with moderation, and convince with truthful arguments.

It is not polite, when passing another on the sidewalk, to turn to the left. Always to the right.

It is not polite to hurry through the streets, jarring one person, jostling another, and stepping on the toes of a third.

It is not polite to use perfumery about your person. Nature does not require it in those who keep themselves

clean and pure. When a person is highly scented, it appears as if it were done to conceal an offensive breath, or some other disagreeable smell.

It is not polite to borrow money, a book, or any article, and not return it at the time designated, or to wait until called upon by the owner. Forgetfulness or thoughtlessness is not a justifiable excuse when you retain, a moment longer than the time specified, whatever belongs to another.

It is not polite to use pompous or high-sounding words in conversation. The more simple words the better, in which you can convey your meaning and be understood.

It is not polite to notice the defects of nature in others, or to speak, in their

presence, of their deformity. Cast your eyes on what is perfect, and speak only of what is agreeable.

It is not polite to smoke a cigar or a pipe in the streets, where are constantly passing those to whom the smoke is offensive.

It is not polite to smoke in a rail-car, an omnibus, a stage-coach, or a ferry-boat, where the smoke may reach the other passengers. A man has no right to annoy his neighbor, much less to poison nature's pure air.

It is not polite to betray confidence reposed in you, or to obtain the secrets of others with the intention of using them to their disadvantage.

It is not polite to beg earnestly in public for any charitable object. It is

sufficient to lay your case before your hearers, and let them decide how much it is their duty to give. They can judge, without the advice or dictation of another.

It is not polite to spit on the floor of a church, a dwelling-house, a car, in the cabin of a steamboat or a ferry-boat. The spitting on the floors of our cars and ferry-boats has become so common that ladies have often found it difficult to obtain seats where they could prevent soiling their dresses. A person who uses tobacco, and is obliged to spit, should never enter apartments set apart exclusively for ladies with gentlemen, unless he is willing to swallow the delectable juice.

It is not polite to spit from the win-

dow of a dwelling-house, or the door of a shop, where people are constantly passing.

It is not polite to spit on the sidewalk, when the open street is before you.

It is not polite to stand before a shop door or window, and spit on the steps or the walk.

It is not polite, when two persons are conversing together, for a third person to interfere, and endeavor to call attention to himself.

It is not polite to break an engagement, or to keep another waiting, even for a moment after the time of meeting has arrived.

It is not polite, on any occasion whatever, to use profane language.

It is not polite to use the name of the Supreme Being with levity or irreverence in conversation.

It is not polite to have foul teeth. A brush should be used after every meal.

It is not polite to pick your teeth at table, or in the presence of those with whom you are conversing.

It is not polite to attempt to force others, against their will, to adopt your sentiments, or to coincide with you in your peculiar views.

It is not polite to question others, in idle curiosity, respecting that with which you have no concern.

It is not polite to get angry when in conversation with another.

It is not polite to request another to do an act, which, if it is not positively

wrong, it may be a disagreeable task for him to perform.

It is not polite to interrupt another, by attempting to speak before he has finished his sentence.

It is not polite for three or four men to rise, and leave their pews in church, to give room for a lady at the foot. If she comes in last, she should occupy the first vacant seat.

It is not polite, in public assemblies, to crowd above others, with the intention of getting the best view of the speaker.

It is not polite to beg of others for the use of yourself or friends, while you have the means to purchase what is necessary.

It is not polite to take a dog or any

other animal into a car or omnibus, to annoy passengers or soil their garments.

It is not polite to drink intoxicating beverages with another, or resort to questionable places, when your inclinations and principles lead you to another course.

It is not polite to put shop-keepers to unnecessary trouble in looking over their goods, when you have no intention of purchasing, or coolly remark, as you leave, "We only came to examine goods to-day."

It is not polite to preach up charity and good will towards men, while you indulge in unchristian feelings towards your fellow-creatures.

It is not polite to attend church with a long face, and be punctilious in the

observance of the Sabbath, while, during the week, you pay but little regard to the common duties of Christianity.

It is not polite to borrow a book, or any article your neighbor has just bought, when you are as well able as he to purchase for yourself.

It is not polite to recommend yourself for any office of trust, honor, or emolument.

It is not polite to pay for puffs or advertisements where your own deeds are proclaimed, or your own articles are extolled.

It is not polite to make a remark, loud enough to be heard by another, which is a word of reproach or a slander on him.

It is not polite to pick out flaws or

petty foibles in the characters of your neighbors, when you are not angels yourselves, and are far from laboring to become such.

It is not polite to utter the ideas of another as your own, and thus attempt to shine in borrowed plumage.

It is not polite to crowd into a full car or omnibus, and expect another to rise, and give you his seat.

It is not polite to refuse to manifest your obligations to those who have assisted you in any way, or given you any desired information, no matter how trivial it may be.

It is not polite to take down a book, or any article, in a store or dwelling-house, and not return it to its proper place.

It is not polite to forget to shut the

door in cold weather, when you leave a house or a store, or to stand with the door open while conversing with another.

It is not polite for persons to dress extravagantly, or in the extreme of fashion, when by so doing they know they will mortify their neighbors who are not able to do the same.

It is not polite to refuse a present, however trifling, bestowed by a generous heart, from the best of motives.

It is not polite to say, "I will do it," and not perform.

It is not polite to hold the contribution box in a man's face, as if to force him to give, when you know he does not approve of the object for which you solicit charity.

It is not polite to stand at the corners of the streets to stare at those who pass, or to make improper remarks.

It is not polite to halloo in the street, or engage in boisterous conversation, particularly when the hour for retirement has arrived.

It is not polite to speak disrespectfully to another, more especially if he is older than yourself, or in humbler circumstances.

It is not polite to speak in an authoritative or angry tone to men or women older than yourself, who may be in your employ.

It is not polite to disregard gray hairs, or to laugh at the infirmities which disease or age has brought upon others.

It is not polite to select the largest share of whatever is placed before you to eat.

It is not polite to laugh at a joke perpetrated at the expense of the feelings of another.

It is not polite to deceive, or in any way to wound the feelings ; to make needless expense ; or to lead others into difficulty or mortification.

It is not polite to refuse to make a suitable apology, whenever you have inadvertently done any thing to injure the feelings of another, or in any way slighted a friend or a neighbor.

It is not polite to hesitate for a moment to forgive a person who makes an apology, and endeavors to repair any injury he may have done to you.

It is not polite to refuse to take the part of a friend whose character may be traduced in his or her absence.

It is not polite for a minister to make so long a prayer as to weary the congregation, or to pray to his people and not to his Maker.

It is not polite to speak frequently of the talents, the beauty, or the accomplishments of the members of your own family.

It is not polite to be recounting your own deeds of benevolence, your own Christian experience, your own devotion to truth and integrity.

It is not polite to praise your own book, your own music, your own work, your peculiar talent, whatever it may be.

It is not polite to put yourself forward in company so as to be the observed of all.

It is not polite to praise a man to his face.

It is not polite for a minister, when preaching on charity, to beg so vehemently as to disgust his hearers. People generally know for what objects to give, and how much they are able to spare, better than they can be told.

It is not polite for a purchaser to attempt to beat down the price of an article he is buying.

It is not polite to place a spit-box in a pew, a cabin, or a car, where ladies and gentlemen sit. Such have no occasion for the article ; and certainly it is not a pleasant object to gaze upon.

It is not polite to speak of a person's dress, or appearance in the street, so as to be heard by him or her.

It is not polite to wear a peculiar dress, or pursue any irregular course for the sake of oddity or notoriety.

It is not polite to read or sleep in church during divine service.

It is not polite to whisper aloud, to laugh, or to act in any way unbecomingly in church.

It is not polite for an organist, who desires to display his skill, to keep the congregation waiting from ten to fifteen minutes, by playing on the instrument, before the minister can begin his services.

It is not polite for a person who has a good voice for singing to be too for-

ward in making a display of his or her powers.

It is not polite, in company, for one to make any remark that may produce unpleasant sensations in the bosom of a sensitive person present.

It is not polite to allude to the misconduct of a person in the presence of his child or his relative.

It is not polite to call at a dwelling, and request to see the lady of the house, and, in disobedience of her request, display your books, your jewelry, or your wares, and urge her to purchase.

It is not polite, when a stranger preaches, for half the congregation to absent themselves from church.

It is not polite for a minister to "play

fantastic tricks" in the pulpit and preach himself, "when sent with God's commission to the heart."

It is not polite, when called upon to pray in public, to touch upon some particular objects, for the sake of giving a thrust at some neighbor present.

It is not polite to pass by a neighbor in trouble, when you can render him assistance.

It is not polite to disturb your neighbors who have retired for the night, by making any noise whatever. Loud singing and thumping on a piano should be avoided, when the hour for rest and sleep has arrived.

It is not polite, when in company, to slight the illiterate or the poor. They should be made to feel, for the time

being at least, that they are not inferior to any present.

It is not polite, in visiting neighbors, to carry your children with you, when they would be likely to annoy and trouble others.

It is not polite to answer angrily or unkindly one who may have asked, unintentionally or thoughtlessly, an improper question.

It is not polite to scold on any occasion ; more especially when an accident occurs.

It is not polite, when you borrow good money, to return the amount in uncurrent bills or ragged currency.

It is not polite to put a person to unnecessary trouble who is ready to deny himself for your accommodation.

It is not polite to throw water or rubbish from a window, beneath which people are constantly passing.

It is not polite to interfere when two are conversing, no matter if you think either to be in an error.

It is not polite, in public assemblies, to occupy much time, when there are others present who are expected to speak.

It is not polite to make lengthy prayers to a weary audience, or to extend the exercises by singing long hymns to dull tunes.

It is not polite to refuse, or hesitate for a moment, to correct a mistake of your own, even though it be greatly to your disadvantage. Persons act dishonestly who knowingly receive double

for what they pay, or, through mistake of the seller, give less for an article than it is actually worth.

It is not polite to refer to past errors or crimes, in the presence of one who has sincerely repented of his vices.

It is not polite to appropriate to your own use, without consent, the most trifling thing that belongs to another.

It is not polite for a young and inexperienced minister, in self-confidence, to attempt to preach on those doctrinal subjects which the most profound thinkers and the most devoted Christians have discussed with diffidence and humility.

It is not polite to be slovenly in your dress, and careless and indifferent about your personal appearance.

It is not polite to question the veracity of another when you are not certain that he is in error.

It is not polite to be odd.

It is not polite for a lawyer to brow-beat and insult a witness, who, though he may be bashful and modest, has a heart keenly sensitive to the wrong and outrage committed upon him.

It is not polite to refuse to pay an honest debt, or to withhold from another beyond a reasonable time, his just dues.

It is not polite to speak unadvisedly to another, or to thrust your opinion, unsolicited, upon a neighbor.

It is not polite to suffer a creature of yours to molest a neighbor. Cows, dogs, and hens should not be allowed

to run at large when they interfere in the least with the rights of others. Dogs are sometimes kept to the terror of neighbors' children ; and they often make it impossible to sleep on account of their barking and howling.

It is not polite to bore another, who has no interest in the matter, with your own troubles or personal adventures.

It is not polite to repeat your own compositions to those who have no desire to hear them.

It is not polite to enter a merchant's store, and take down his goods to examine, and not return them to their proper places.

It is not polite to pry into a letter belonging to another, or to read it, if carelessly left open before you.

It is not polite for an editor, who, controlling a press, has the advantage of his neighbors, to abuse them in print, or hold them up to public contempt.

It is not polite to alter a show-bill, a notice, or an advertisement, so as to convey an erroneous sentiment or an improper idea.

It is not polite to send to another a scurrilous letter, or a caricature, to wound the feelings or provoke the temper.

It is not polite to give a nickname to another, or to call him, at any time, by an improper name.

It is not polite to speak of a gentleman as "that fellow."

It is not polite to tell a falsehood, under any circumstances whatever.

It is not polite to be a "busy-body in other men's matters," when you are not in the least interested.

It is not polite to pluck fruit from the trees of a neighbor, without his consent, or to take a single flower from his grounds.

It is not polite to fret and to scold about the weather, or with the affairs of Providence in general.

It is not polite to get angry when an accident occurs, even if your property is destroyed, or your person is injured.

It is not polite to preach charity and benevolence to others, while you are mean and penurious in the extreme.

It is not polite to hold up to ridicule the defects in the characters of your neighbors or friends.

It is not polite to destroy the life of any creature, however humble, which does not molest you, or that is not injurious to the community.

It is not polite to make sport of serious matters, or to ridicule those who conscientiously perform religious duties.

It is not polite to force yourself in any place without pay, when you know money is requisite to an admission.

It is not polite to vote for yourself as a candidate for office, or to solicit the votes of your friends.

It is not polite for a poor person to borrow money, when it is not in his power to pay. There are those mean enough to borrow, and then get angry when called upon to pay. They some-

times have the impudence to accuse their friends of trying to distress the widow and the orphan, because they insist on justice.

It is not polite for a merchant to advertise on his store, "Selling off at cost," "Closing off at reduced prices," "Goods sold cheaper than at any other store," and the like, when it is done to deceive, and obtain custom, and he has no intention of doing as he advertises. Persons would do well to avoid such places.

It is not polite to advertise in the newspapers, that you are selling at "less than cost," or that your goods are "superior to any in the market," that "they have been damaged by fire or by water," or that persons can save from ten to twenty per cent in purchasing their

goods at your store, when facts do not warrant the use of such language. Those who believe such advertisements are generally seriously taken in.

It is not polite to shun a person who has done you a favor, or to pass him by as if you did not recognize him.

It is not polite to hurry to your business with shoes unbrushed, hair uncombed, and teeth not cleaned.

It is not polite to lay plans for the accomplishment of any object whereby you unjustly elevate yourself in the eyes of the public.

It is not polite to get angry or use insulting words to those who refuse to give to the object for which you solicit charity. Remember, others may not see and feel as you do.

It is not polite to solicit a friend to stand as security for you, and then leave him to settle your own just debt.

It is not polite to injure in any way the property of another. A tree should not be cut, a fence marred, an animal maimed, or any offensive article be thrown on his premises.

It is not polite to insist on the attention of another who is busily engaged, or to weary him with words when he gives you a hearing.

It is not polite to test the quality of butter by putting to your mouth the knife which is used by the grocer.

It is not polite for a minister, a teacher, a doctor, or a lawyer, in making purchases, to ask a liberal discount on account of his profession.

It is not polite, when a person hears of the rise of an article in the market, to go to his uninformed neighbors, and purchase at less than its value.

It is not polite for teachers who keep books for sale to feel less interest in scholars who do not purchase of them, or to find fault with the books they have obtained at less prices. Teachers in public schools ought to have salaries sufficiently large to prevent their dabbling in the sales of books.

It is not polite to fail for the purpose of making money. If you have been unfortunate in business, you should pay your honest debts the first opportunity.

It is not polite to prolong your visits so as to weary your friends.

It is not polite for parents to leave their children alone when they will be likely to make a noise, and disturb their neighbors.

It is not polite to purchase an article of a clerk, when you know he is selling it for less than his employer can afford.

It is not polite to make use of public prayer to extol the virtues or to flatter the vanity of a distinguished personage who may be present.

It is not polite for a young minister to assume too much, and attempt to dictate those who were in the church before he was born.

It is not polite for a man who holds an office, and whose situation subjects him to thousands of annoying questions, to give a hasty, uncivil answer. Men in

office are very apt to feel the importance of their stations, and answer hurriedly or tartly those who are obliged at times to make inquiries of them. Persons of quick tempers and uncivil natures should never take an important office.

It is not polite to send for insertion in a public print a notice of a false marriage or the death of a living person.

It is not polite for a minister to boast of his success in preaching, or to be more elated at his popularity and increased salary than at the conversion of sinners.

It is not polite, if you insist on wearing mourning on the death of a friend, to wear that mourning garb for too long a period. When we see ladies persist in wearing sable, we are re-

minded of the reply a young widow made to her mother : " Don't you see," said she, " it saves me the expense of advertising for a husband."

It is not polite to crowd in or out of a public assembly.

It is not polite to step on the feet or the heels of another.

It is not polite to suffer a person to ask you several times to pay a debt justly due.

It is not polite for a tax-collector to be uncivil or unkind because he is invested with a little authority.

It is not polite to attend church for the purpose of seeing and being seen.

It is not polite to be all things to all men. Always let it be manifest where you stand, and what you are ; and do

not hesitate, when it is necessary, to express the honest sentiments of your heart.

It is not polite to confess your sins in the plural number, while you extol your virtues in the singular number.

It is not polite to quote the sentiments and opinions of others, and give them currency as your own. If you make a speech or write a paragraph, let it be your own, be it expressed ever so homely or bunglingly.

It is not polite to disfigure the house, shop, door, or fence of another, or daub them with paint, or place any marks upon them either through malice or a love of mischief.

It is not polite to allow your children or domestics to ring the door-bells of

your neighbors, or in any way deceive or molest them.

It is not polite to invite a person to visit you, to dine with you, or to lodge with you, unless you really desire it. This kind of deception — uttering words from the mouth which come not from the heart — should never be practised, to the mortification and distress of one who may have deemed you sincere, and taken you at your word. If it is not convenient to receive company, or you do not actually desire it, on no consideration should you extend the invitation.

It is not polite for the conductors on our rail-cars, whose duty it is to look after the comfort and happiness of the passengers, to permit men and boys to

smoke cigars and pipes on the cars. Notwithstanding most of our railroad companies have prohibited the smoking of tobacco on our cars, it is sometimes permitted by good-natured conductors.

It is not polite for editors, for the sake of advertising patronage, to state that the circulation of the paper is larger than that of any other sheet in the city, when such is not the fact.

It is not polite for editors to recommend constant advertising as a means of receiving custom, when the fact is, merchants advertise too much for their interest ; and many cases can be mentioned, where people have lost all and failed by advertising largely. A very little judicious advertising may not be unprofitable.

It is not polite for editors to give publicity to current but untrue reports for the purpose of making their papers sell, and then be obliged the next day to contradict their statements. This course has been repeatedly pursued in our daily papers, and has produced incalculable mischief, and brought distress upon many individuals and families. An editor cannot be too cautious to learn facts before he makes a statement that reaches the public.

It is not polite for editors to state things untrue for the purpose of misleading people, and then laughing at what they consider a good joke. An abominable falsehood is no joke.

It is not polite for editors to recommend in their editorial columns articles

they have never seen or tried, just because they are liberally paid for so doing. Many a person has been deceived and injured by such injudicious, wicked puffs.

It is not polite to advertise in any way to deceive the public, whether you desire to sell or to purchase. The advertising columns of our papers are so managed, that one hardly knows what to believe. You cannot tell a genuine advertisement from a deceptive one. Not long since I read in an advertisement that goods were sold from fifteen to twenty per cent cheaper at a certain store than at any other place in the city. A day or two after, I was in that neighborhood. I had just left a store opposite to the person

who thus advertised, and I saw sold an article for nearly one-half what the advertiser charged a gentleman who stepped in and purchased. Out of curiosity, I examined both articles ; and I found them precisely alike, and made by the same man. So much for the deceptive advertisement. The persons who pay for advertising cannot afford, as a general thing, to sell so low as those who do not incur this great expense. Editors and publishers are much to blame for giving out the impression that very little can be done without advertising.

It is not polite for a minister to beg earnestly for what is called a charitable institution, and denounce, in terms not very gentle, those who do not choose to

give, when it is evident to all, that his sole object in preaching charitable sermons is an ample support for himself and family.

It is not polite for agents to solicit charity for professedly benevolent objects, when it is known to the community at large, that three-quarters of all moneys contributed to the societies they represent go to the support of the agents themselves.

It is not polite for a person to assume the cloak of religion, whereby he may be more successful in business.

It is not polite to insist that your friend shall hear your manuscript read, or that you should tire his patience out in repeating a large portion of your recent poem or essay.

It is not polite to be uncivil to the most humble or degraded. The girl who works in the kitchen, or the man who carries a hod, may possess virtues which are rarely found in many who meet in our fashionable circles.

It is not polite to vacate your pew at church because a contribution is to be taken up. If you do not like the object, you need not give.

It is not polite, when a stranger comes to reside in your neighborhood, to make inquiries that will cast suspicions on his character. If his conduct is upright, it is enough : you should treat him as a neighbor and a citizen.

It is not polite for a member of a church or a benevolent association to be offended because his views are not

coincided in by his associates, and threaten to leave their society.

It is not polite for a person to attempt to be witty, when everybody knows he has not a spark of the genuine article in his composition.

It is not polite to pray to God in your families and in the conference-rooms ; and, during the business-hours of the day, to prey upon your neighbors' characters, or deceive and wrong those with whom you have dealings.

It is not polite, after you have done a favor for a neighbor, to be constantly reminding him of it.

It is not polite for an editor to speak unfavorably of a work, because the publisher does not choose to advertise in his journal.

It is not polite, after you have made presents to a public institution, and received the degree you have labored long to obtain, to prefix it to your name on every possible occasion.

It is not polite, when you owe a person for goods, to avoid his store, or go elsewhere to make your purchases. The man you owe is justly entitled to your patronage.

It is not polite to sit on a merchant's door-step, where people are constantly passing in and out.

It is not polite to fill our horse-cars with show-bills. People who travel, generally prefer to look at something more agreeable than quack-medicine advertisements. If we must have something to read in the cars, give us moral

precepts. These may not pay as well on earth, but may lay up treasures above.

It is not polite to listen where persons are in private conversation.

It is not polite to ask many questions of those with whom you are not on very intimate terms.

It is not polite to be indifferent or taciturn, without any apparent cause, to those with whom you have long been intimate.

It is not polite to say to another, "I am happy to see you," when, in your heart, you feel perfectly indifferent.

It is not polite to urge an acquaintance to stop longer with you, when you would rather have him leave.

It is not polite to mimic those who are in any way defective by nature.

It is not polite, in passing a narrow walk, for a gentleman to remain, and crowd the lady off.

It is not polite for ladies to spread out in churches, omnibuses, or cars, when there are others waiting for seats.

It is not polite to apply the epithet, "old man," or "old woman," to a parent or an employer.

It is not polite to sweep the sidewalk when persons are passing immediately in front of you.

It is not polite, when you borrow an article of a neighbor, to request him to send it to you.

It is not polite to take a book or a newspaper from the hands of another, who has merely stopped reading it for a moment or two.

It is not polite to speak pompously or extravagantly for the purpose of calling attention to yourself.

It is not polite to read aloud in the presence of those who wish to read or converse themselves.

It is not polite to thrust your opinions before those who have no respect for you or them.

It is not polite to make a boast of entertaining sentiments averse to religion, or to be indifferent to the conscientious scruples of your friends.

It is not polite to write a letter of inquiry respecting your own business, and not enclose a stamp to pay the postage of the return letter.

It is not polite, when called upon to address a public assembly, to advance

peculiar opinions in such a manner as to displease your hearers.

It is not polite for several persons to stand conversing in the door-way of a public store.

It is not polite to hawk and spit at your meals ; or to cough without turning your head aside.

It is not polite to go with hands or nails uncleaned ; or to sit down to breakfast with face and hands unwashed, and hair uncombed.

It is not polite to clean your nails in company.

It is not polite for ladies to wear dresses so long that people are continually stepping upon them.

It is not polite to send a card, or circular, or an advertisement, to another,

and subject him to the postage of even a penny.

It is not polite to wash your windows in such a manner as to spatter water on passers-by.

It is not polite to throw parings on the sidewalk. Persons have frequently fallen, and been injured for life, by stepping on orange-peel.

It is not polite to slander a neighbor, or listen to a slander.

It is not polite to make use of low or vulgar expressions. A person of refined manners is never guilty of using expressions like these, — *hain't*, *his'n*, *tain't*, *hadn't ought*, and similar words.

It is not polite to do any thing that is offensive to others. If you are requested not to smoke a cigar in the

presence of those to whom it is offensive, you should at once put the cigar aside, and not make an insulting or an unkind remark. There is probably nothing so offensive to a person unaccustomed to the use of tobacco, as the smoke of a cigar or a pipe. This it is your bounden duty to remember, and act the part of a Christian gentleman.

It is not polite for a merchant to imitate his neighbor, whose peculiar tact has given him his trade. We often see one man advertise, almost word for word, as his neighbor does ; arrange his window in a similar manner ; and, in various other ways, follow his example.

It is not polite to insist on opening a door or window in a car or ferry-boat,

to the inconvenience or suffering of others.

It is not polite to use a neighbor's yard or sidewalk, to save your own from being torn up or soiled.

It is not polite, in the payment of a debt, to give less, or send less in a letter, — even to the amount of a single penny.

It is not polite to advertise anonymously for a partner in life. Few persons of character and respectability resort to this means to obtain a wife or a husband.

It is not polite to answer an advertisement or communication in the public prints, the object of which is deception and fraud. A person of honor and strict integrity will not hesitate to

subscribe his name to an article worthy the attention of the public.

It is not polite for a choir of singers to disagree.

It is not polite to request another to indorse a note for you without offering to give him ample security.

It is not polite to loan to another an article intrusted to your care.

It is not polite, when you have indorsed a note that the promiser cannot pay, to attempt to avoid the payment by putting your property out of your hands, or by resorting to any other unlawful means to avoid the payment. A person should never indorse a note unless he is abundantly able, and feels perfectly willing, to pay the same, providing the debt should fall upon him.

In many cases, a note is taken, solely on account of the standing and reputation of the indorser.

It is not polite to judge of a man's character by the clothes he wears.

It is not polite to speak in a manner that may wound the heart of a child. Persons are often at fault, in the presence of the diffident, in making remarks that touch most keenly the sensitive heart. They do it thoughtlessly, to be sure ; but they are not the less to be censured. A real gentleman is always particular when he speaks, and how he speaks.

It is not polite, if you have risen from poverty and obscurity to a respectable position in society, to forget your former circumstances, and look down

upon those less favored than yourself, who were once your companions and friends, — some of whom may have contributed largely to your success and elevation.

It is not polite, when a trader has given you the lowest prices at which he will sell his goods, to ask him to take less. A minister of the gospel, whose profession should teach him better, was recently purchasing an article of a merchant, whom he requested to put down to his lowest price. "That is my lowest price," said the trader. "You can take less," said the preacher: "I will give you so much," naming a much less price. "Would you have me lie?" said the merchant. "You asked me to name my lowest price, and

I have done so ; and now you ask me to take less. Sir, I never trade thus." The minister blushed, and took the article.

It is not polite to perform any unnecessary work, or go on excursions of pleasure, on the Sabbath.

It is not polite to waste or destroy any thing that can possibly be of use to another.

It is not polite for a minister to make the pulpit an advertising medium, even if tickets to an exhibition are presented to himself and family.

It is not polite for school masters and mistresses, however well paid they may be, to distribute show-bills and cards to the children, from mountebanks and humbugs ; thus setting all the scholars

by the cars, to tease their parents and friends for the means of attending their exhibitions.

It is not polite for school-teachers to show partiality to their scholars, or manifest an overbearing and tyrannical disposition towards any of their pupils.

It is not polite, if asked a civil question by a stranger in the street, or at your place of business, to give him a short or gruff answer.

It is not polite, if a gentleman in the cars rises to give his seat to a lady, for her to offer it to a gentleman who may accompany her, with the expectation that another will rise.

It is not polite to hang about stores, offices, or depots, where you have no business to transact.

It is not polite to get offended with a person who does not choose to patronize the society or the object you represent.

It is not polite to suffer yourself to be prejudiced against another, because some enemy may have spoken disparagingly of him. There are those full of prejudice against most worthy people, solely because they have heard adverse reports, circulated by the evil-minded and the slanderer.

It is not polite to stand at the doors of your shop, or on the sidewalk, and invite the passers-by to walk in and purchase. People know what they want without your aid.

It is not polite, when a trader charges you a certain amount for an article, to

lay down a less sum, even if a copper or two only be lacking.

It is not polite to subscribe to a benevolent cause, and never pay your subscription.

It is not polite to take a wet umbrella in the cars, and hold it in a position to drip on a neighbor.

It is not polite to request another to purchase an article for you, and then refuse to take it.

It is not polite, when a person asks you the price of an article you do not have, and which you know can be purchased at the next door, to name the price at less than you know it can be bought of the wholesale dealer.

It is not polite to sit on the counter, when in a gentleman's store.

It is not polite to wait upon a well-dressed customer, who has just entered your store, to the neglect of one who may be poor, or too modest to thrust himself forward, and who has been patiently waiting for his turn.

It is not polite, when sitting in a car, an omnibus, or a pew, to place your feet upon the cushions.

It is not polite to keep your seat in a car, when an aged person, or a person lame or deformed, is obliged to stand.

It is not polite to stop a vehicle on the cross-walk, where ladies and gentlemen are constantly passing.

It is not polite to comb your hair in the presence of persons who are at their meals.

It is not polite for our literary institutions to confer titles on rich nabobs and dull jackasses, to the neglect of real worth and splendid talents.

It is not polite for editors to approve of or condemn a book before they have carefully read it.

It is not polite for a conductor on a car to be cross and crabid to his passengers, or to answer a proper question with indifference or unkindness.

It is not polite, when soliciting charity, to carry a baby in your arms. The discerning and intelligent are not thus entrapped.

It is not polite to speak unpleasantly or sharply to a customer at the counter, or to a stranger in the street; or to be indifferent to the wants of an

humble, unobtrusive individual. "A little word in kindness spoken" has made many a fortune, and, what is better, secured a pleasant and peaceful life, a triumphant death, and a blessed immortality.

It is not polite, when you meet a sick acquaintance, to remark, "How dreadfully you look" — "You appear very feeble," and the like. A man who is ill needs to be encouraged.

It is not polite for lay members of a church, not blest with remarkable talents, and who have, withal, weak and feminine voices, to usurp a large portion of the time in speaking or praying, to the edification of none but themselves.

It is not polite for a person, speaking

in public, to turn his back to the congregation, even if he should say some severe things to them.

It is not polite to select articles of a storekeeper, have them done up, and then neglect to send and pay for them.

It is not polite for a conductor, when his car is full, to make his passengers uncomfortable by crowding in others, especially on a hot day.

It is not polite, while sitting in the cars, to extend your arms behind the backs of your neighbors.

It is not polite to allow your children to enter the cars with any thing in their hands to molest passengers, or allow them to stand on the seats with dirty shoes.

It is not polite to carry boxes, bas-

kets, or parcels in the cars, to take up room belonging to others, or to place them where they may annoy the passengers.

It is not polite for a professedly Christian institution, on account of a difference of opinion among its managers, to separate into two distinct bodies, and thus incur double the expense of support, — particularly, if the funds for carrying on the enterprise are contributed mainly by the poor and middling classes.

It is not polite to request another to sign a document, which properly belongs to yourself to sign, but which you hesitate to do, apprehending that you may in future have trouble thereby. A Boston lawyer was once a partner in

business with a gentleman who was executor to an estate, and who was obliged to give bonds to the faithful discharge of his duty. Two names were required. He obtained one ; and, after laboring for a week or more, he informed his companion that it was impossible for him to succeed, and that he, as his partner in business, ought not to hesitate to sign the document. " Let me have the paper, and I will obtain a name," said the lawyer. He immediately sent for a neighbor, whom he knew had confidence in him, and, on his appearance, remarked, " I wish you would sign this paper for me." — " What is it ? " inquired his friend. " It is merely a form." — " Then, why do you not sign it yourself ? " was the

inquiry.” — “ I have no objection to sign it,” said the lawyer ; “ but, as it relates to business connected with our office, it would not be proper for me to do so.”

“ If you will assure me it is only a form, I will sign it to accommodate you,” the friend remarked. “ I assure you, it is merely a matter of form,” the lawyer replied. And his friend signed the document, and thought no more of the circumstance. After the expiration of a year or two, the merchant was waited upon at his store by an officer, who informed him that his goods were attached to the amount of several thousand dollars, — he being bondsman for another, — and a keeper was accordingly placed in his store. The merchant at first did not understand the

matter ; but finally remembered the circumstance recorded above, and immediately called upon the lawyer. He coolly remarked, “ I did not think you would have trouble, but I will see what I can do.” He was repeatedly called upon ; and, although he was worth a large property, he utterly refused to assist his friend, or to be responsible for the safe-keeping of his goods : and the merchant, thus deceived, with a large family on his hands, was driven into bankruptcy, and never received a dollar from his wealthy, pretended friend.

It is not polite to sell an article less than cost to a new customer to get his future trade, intending to make up your loss at some future time, thus giving

him the impression that you sell cheaper than your honest neighbor, who resorts to no such tricks to deceive.

It is not polite to whine over losses. A real, energetic man will persevere, and again be successful.

It is not polite to subscribe for the erection of a church, or any benevolent enterprise, while at the same time you owe honest debts which you refuse to pay.

It is not polite for Christians to meet and pray for the prosperity of Zion, and that "brotherly love may continue," while they refuse to speak to, or have fellowship with, some members of the Church.

It is not polite to place boxes or other articles on the sidewalk, with

hooks or nails in them, whereby ladies' dresses can be caught and injured.

It is not polite, on a second marriage, to reflect on a companion, by frequently mentioning the kind disposition and amiable character of a former husband or wife.

It is not polite to avoid the company of a friend, or to treat him coolly, without giving him a reason for your conduct. Some evil-minded person may have circulated a slander, or brought a false accusation against him. A friend should never be forsaken, unless you have indubitable evidence of his guilt, and you have labored faithfully and affectionately to restore him to virtue.

It is not polite for a string of vehicles to continue to pass over the cross-walk,

expressly laid for passengers, when there are those waiting to pass along.

It is not polite for a merchant to charge more for his goods than he expects to get, and then suffer himself to be beaten down in his prices.

It is not polite for a minister who desires to display his skill, and amuse a thoughtless congregation, to select detached sentences and odd phrases, or simple words, from the Bible, as a foundation for his discourse.

It is not polite for ephemeral critics, even if they do belong to mutual admiration societies, to be severe on men of talents who do not coincide in their views, or patronize their literary efforts. We often find, in what are called first-class periodicals, papers

from men who have become popular on account of something which they have written in years past, which would hardly be passable in the columns of a country newspaper. Sometimes works of real merit are suffered to lie neglected because the authors were too independent to bow down, and kiss the feet of Dagon.

It is not polite to refuse to do any necessary work, no matter how elevated your condition, or wealthy you may be.

It is not polite to repeat a story, especially if it is a long one, to your friends. If you are apt to be forgetful, just inquire if you have not told the story before.

It is not polite to wear a sanctimonious face at church, and frequently in-

introduce the subject of religion as a topic of conversation, while, at the same time, your dealings with your clerks and others are such as to bring reproach upon the cause you hypocritically labor to promote.

It is not polite, in starting a periodical, for an editor to advocate a certain cause, and after he has published it for several weeks, and obtained patrons, to change his sentiments for the sake of office or money. He should at once refund every dollar he has received from those who justly feel indignant at his course.

It is not polite for a church committee, when the stated pastor is sick or absent, to inflict on the congregation a dull, prosaic, broken-down, or super-

annuated minister, simply because he works cheap, and can be obtained at half price.

It is not polite for an officer, dressed in a little brief authority, to exercise that authority to the annoyance and disgust of others ; making a complete fool of himself.

It is not polite for a minister to strive to be a "lord over God's heritage." He should remember that the church and congregation have equal rights with himself.

It is not polite to speak unnecessarily loud to a person who is a little deaf, — especially before strangers.

It is not polite, after purchasing goods of a merchant, to take them to his house, out of the city, and request

him to take them to his store and exchange them, — even if he is a good-natured man, and you are very pleasant in conversation.

It is not polite to wear your nails long, or to have them soiled at the ends.

It is not polite, when invited to an entertainment, to find fault with the dishes.

It is not polite, when you have assisted another in adversity, or pecuniary distress, to remind him of it, even if you become dissatisfied with his course and conduct. A true deed of charity is never referred to, except in gratitude, when in your closet.

It is not polite to whistle when in company, thump on the table, or make any unnecessary noise.

It is not polite to place your feet on the rounds of a chair, on the window-sills, or to sit with your feet in an elevated position.

It is not polite to be restless and unquiet in church, or in any public assembly.

It is not polite to show letters sent to you in confidence, or to expose the bad grammar, or incorrect spelling of a document kindly loaned you by a friend.

It is not polite for half a dozen persons to crowd into a store, already full, where only one wishes to make a purchase.

It is not polite to go on pleasure excursions on the Sabbath, to the annoyance of those who attend church, and who desire to worship their Creator

unmolested by the noise of vehicles or boisterous conversation and laughter. Many a worshiping congregation has been seriously disturbed by the profane and thoughtless riding past their churches. The growing desecration of the Sabbath, of late, seems to call loudly for all interested in the preservation of the sanctity of this day, and the continuance of good morals, to exert their influence to stay the progress of this breach of morality and religion.

It is not polite for persons to adulterate the articles they sell for genuine. The increasing desire to accumulate property, or to live beyond one's means, has induced many to resort to courses unjustifiable and dishonest. How few of the articles consumed in a family

are just what the seller warrants them to be! The retailer may or may not be at fault ; but the sin attaches itself to somebody for all the adulterated articles in the market ; and, if there is to be a day of reckoning at last, how dark will be the record of those who deceive !

It is not polite to hector, perplex, or torment those who are not blessed with an even temper, or a sunny disposition. How many, by irritating their friends, prove complete “thorns in the flesh,” when, by a different course, they might be real blessings to mankind, and secure the approbation, if not the affections, of thousands !

It is not polite for public functionaries to take bribes, and screen the dis-

honest from the punishment they deserve. There is reason to believe that there are men, high in office, whose integrity is sometimes laid aside from motives of friendship, or from the love of gain. A man who cannot be firm in his virtuous principles should never take a responsible office.

It is not polite to give garbled extracts as the sentiments of an author, or to cite, as his ideas, language which has been altered in the slightest degree.

It is not polite for hymnologists, in preparing books for public assemblies, to alter a line, or a single word even, of the hymns written by others, without their consent. Persons with little judgment, and less poetic talent, have so altered some of the best productions of

Watts, Doddridge, Cowper, Montgomery, and others, as not only to destroy the poetic life, and quench the sacred fire, of their holiest effusions, but have also made them to convey sentiments utterly at variance with the religious opinions of the authors. Stanzas finely conceived and nobly expressed, in some cases have been omitted, or supplied by others mean in conception, tame in spirit, and utterly unworthy of being sung or repeated in the sanctuary set apart for the worship and praise of the Most High. Hymns have been so altered as to adapt them to particular and favorite tunes, which is decidedly wronging an author. In every case, the tune should be adapted to the hymn. It is high time that the Chris-

tian public should frown on every attempt to improve the style and language of Cowper, Montgomery, and other deceased religious poets. It would be well if ministers and people should refuse to use in their churches books containing hymns shorn of their beauties, and made ridiculous from the interpolations of would-be poets and authors.

It is not polite for an ambitious man, seeking for office, to express his love for the "dear people," and his determination to stand up at all hazards for the right, immediately to change his course when his ends are gained, and denounce the measures he was once so earnest to sustain.

It is not polite to leave a company

abruptly when you are expected to remain, without giving a sufficient excuse for your course.

It is not polite, when detected in a wrong statement, to make a terrible bluster, using harsh and denunciatory language, as if thus to satisfy your friends and your conscience. The only right course to pursue, after you have erred, is at once to confess your fault ; and this course alone will satisfy your real friends.

It is not polite to manifest angry feelings when a wrong package, parcel, or book has been given to you, or even when you have been unconsciously misdirected. We have seen persons very indignant and angry when a slight mistake has been made, which shows an

ugly disposition, and one which needs much care and attention to cultivate.

It is not polite, after refusing to give the assessor of taxes a schedule of your property, to find fault with the amount of your taxes. Some men think it no sin to defraud the town or the government, and sometimes take pride in acknowledging their guilt. It is just as wicked to carry a false schedule to the collector, or to make a false statement at the custom-house, as to take goods without leave from your neighbor's store. Until men look at this subject in its true light, their integrity and morality will be questioned, no matter how sincerely and closely they profess to follow the example of Christ.

It is not polite to use improper lan-

guage, or relate indecent stories, especially in the company of children. There are persons who are avoided, solely on account of the language they use, and the stories they tell. How pernicious must the example of such be, wherever it is seen and felt ! If there is a perfect blot on God's creation, we have often thought it to be the man who habitually uses indecent language, or makes allusion to transactions the most villainous. He cannot be otherwise than a moral pest to society, and deserves to be shunned by the moral and virtuous of all classes.

It is not polite to enter a gentleman's study, or place of business, and trouble him to hear unprofitable stories, or ask him a thousand unnecessary questions.

Sometimes the only leisure a professional man, or a man of business, has, are the few moments you find him at his desk ; and it is provoking in the extreme to disturb him then. A genuine polite business-man will be brief in his remarks, few in his questions, which will be to the point, and very short and unfrequent in his visits, especially if what he communicates, or inquires about, relates solely to his own affairs.

It is not polite, finally, to pursue any course contrary to the known wishes of your friends, or derogatory to the character of upright citizens ; nay, more, to take any step or commit any act which is condemned by the precepts of the Bible.

In this little work we have endeavored to throw out hints, so that all who read may be induced to pursue that course, and practise those virtues, which will make them better citizens, better members of society, better Christians, and, what is of far more importance, enable them so to conduct in every department of life, as to prepare them for the society of the "just made perfect," when this fleeting season of existence is passed.

People generally are not aware how important to success in life, and how necessary to the formation of an upright Christian character, is the deportment of every-day life. A comparatively trifling course of conduct in youth often has great influence on the future char-

acter of the man. Resist the first temptation ; suppress the first desire for forbidden pleasure ; dash the first intoxicating cup presented to your lip ; suppress the first oath ; resist, with a determination that no persuasion shall overcome, the first suggestion to put a cigar to your mouth ; and with a silent, earnest prayer to Heaven for assistance, you will be safe.

It is of the highest importance that those who have just stepped on the threshold of life should look upon this state of existence, not as a place to cultivate the basest passions, or foster a taste for enticing pleasures, with loose ideas of morality and Christianity ; but as a preparation-state for a higher and holier existence. The kindly, genial

affections of the heart should be cultivated and brought out, while selfishness, and every other sordid passion, must be kept down and destroyed. Study to be sincere, benevolent, kind-hearted, affectionate, and really polite in all your dealings with your neighbors, in your intercourse with the world, with an especial aim to the glory of your Redeemer.

Brought up and having lived in a city for a long period, we have been no slight observer of men and manners, and have marked the dawning period, the middle age, and the close of life, of many an individual, and can record our testimony to the value of a polite, consistent, Christian course. Virtue has not only been the strength of youth,

but a passport to the society of the good and intelligent, and opened the way to complete success. We do not wish you to understand that we mean by success, wealth, popular applause, elevated positions, or the good opinions merely of your neighbors and friends ; but we mean a substantial character, inflexible virtue, and unbending integrity. Among the bright examples of Christian excellence, we might name such men as the late Daniel Safford, John C. Proctor, and Timothy Gilbert of Boston ; men who, through life, exhibited the Christian virtues, and exerted a wide influence for good, which will be felt for generations to come. We might also mention, in this connection, the honored names of Stephen Long-

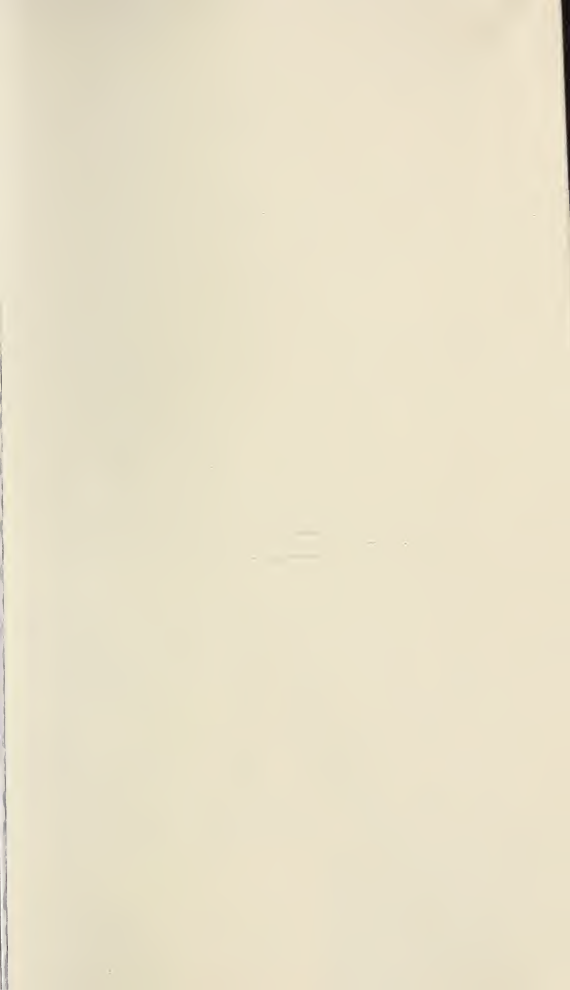
fellow and Levi Cutter of Portland ; men who were blessings in their day, and whose bright example of Christian excellence is worthy the imitation of all. Following the example of such, your life will be a blessing to yourselves and others, your end will be peaceful, and your reward in heaven glorious and eternal.

THE END.

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